

Holifield back with a bang

By STUART EARP

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Millwall XI 0

MICK HOLIFIELD, Wycombe Wanderers' devastating mid-field sprinter, has been below his best form for much of the season. But on Wednesday night he scored the type of goal that confirmed he is still a player of match-winning potential.

This goal came in the 65th minute of a keenly fought friendly against a Millwall XI. Dylan Evans laid the ball off nicely into Holifield's path and with a searing burst of speed, Mick raced past two defenders before unleashing a vicious cross-shot into the far corner of the net. It was Holifield at his best and a flash of pure gold.

Another goal eight minutes later — this time by Howard Kennedy — sealed a deserved victory for the Blues.

Millwall sent down an extremely young side, with only three players over the age of 21. These all had first team experience behind them — Alan Dorney, Dave Donaldson and Alan Welsh. Dorney's experience served them well at the back where life was hectic at times, while Welsh looked a class player up front despite being tightly marked.

Millwall's youngsters seemed adequate against Wycombe yet few looked stars for the future and it was the established players who caught the eye, hardly surprising since many of the visitors were barely 17 and 18.

Goalkeeper Mick Johns did well early on and held two powerful efforts from Geoff Anthony within a minute during the first half. Millwall tended to overhit their passes but Steve Manders got in a good strike at goal after 33 minutes which Peter Spittle saved well. Before the break, the impressive Evans had two chances to break the deadlock but was unlucky with both.

The general pattern of the first half continued after the break with Wanderers comfortably on top and yet unable to find a way through the Millwall defence. Anthony almost surprised Johns after 50 minutes with a rising shot that the 'keeper held at the second attempt. It was good to see Anthony trying shots from longer range and his contribution to this game was considerable.

superbly, holding off two defenders and pushing the ball into Kennedy's path. A swing of the boot and it was 2-0.

Kennedy, who like Dave Alexander, worked busily throughout the game, should have had another in the last minute when right through the Millwall defence. He took the ball round Johns but then stumbled and the 'keeper was able to recover.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, D. Bullock, R. Eaton; D. Alexander, H. Kennedy, M. Holifield; D. Evans, A. Horseman, G. Anthony (sub. B. Macrae 60 mins.).

MILLWALL: W. Johns; D. Donaldson, G. Borg, H. Wright, A. Dorney; J. Garner (sub. L. Maurice 45 mins.), K. Chivers, H. Hamberger (sub. P. Wright 70 mins.); A. Welsh, S. Manders, P. Williams.

Referee: K. Downey (Istleworth).
Half-time: 0-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe — Holifield (65), Kennedy (73).
Official attendance: 300.

Holifield opened the account after 65 minutes and not long afterwards Bruce Macrae sent a shot dipping just over the crossbar.

Millwall's best effort of the game came in the 73rd minute. Welsh laid the ball back to Mark Wright who pounded in a drive of some 25 yards. Peter Spittle, who has been so consistent in his few games this term, produced one of his best saves since rejoining the club to tip the ball around the post.

It was the improving Howard Kennedy who sealed Wycombe's victory with the second goal after 82 minutes. Tony Horseman controlled the ball